

**From:** [Scott Couch](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**CC:** [Billington, Tracie; Jeffrey Albrecht; JANET BLAKE; Shahla Farahnak;](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Monte Rio Sewer Project/Prop 50 IRWM Draft Funding  
**Date:** Friday, December 08, 2006 3:59:32 PM  
**Attachments:**

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Thank you for your comments. They will be taken into consideration.

Scott B. Couch, P.G.  
State Water Board - Div. of Financial Assistance  
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>>> <[REDACTED]> 12/8/2006 11:54 AM >>>

Dear Mr. Couch;

This is yet another appeal to the CA. Waterboard for proper oversight and allocation of resource funding. The Monte Rio Sewer Project is a boondoggle and in no way deserves Prop 50 funding. Your applying for funding would be an insult to those who passed Prop 50 for far more needed and worthwhile projects. I urge you and the Waterboard to eliminate this project from proceeding, let alone any funding consideration.

Below is an Opinion Piece published to acclaim in the Russian River Times. I welcome a response to this correspondence..

Sincerely;  
John G. Bauer

### THE MONTE RIO SEWER, MIKE REILLY AND THE GANG OF FIVE!!!

For ongoing nine years, the Monte Rio Wastewater (Sewer) Project has encompassed both blatant and subtle misrepresentations, lies, omissions and manipulations. All needed and used to foist the project on the lower River community, gain approval and obtain outside taxpayer funding (other peoples money).

The list of offenses is extensive and will not be reiterated here. Suffice to say the trail is well marked for the time there is to be individual and County

accountability. Unfortunately it may come after the project is built but the repercussions will come. The most recent developments include the continuing upward costs of the project. The latest figure was \$14.9M for 400 Monte Rio only properties. A continually spiraling cost number highly suspected to be substantially understated.

It's evident from the funding announcements that the County and specifically Mike Reilly are frantically scrambling to get more and more necessary funding (other peoples money) from any and all sources. It's needed to camouflage the ever increasing costs over the previous misrepresented estimates. More important to the perpetrators, its needed to protect the legally frozen cost to the service area owners from the past Prop 218 vote. Without a spade yet being turned in the ground, it's already been increased once through manipulation.

In addition to using other peoples money, the County intends to take and use other peoples property by eminent domain (Sheridan Ranch, directly alongside the river waterway). Reilly recently announced there is to be no other option and there will be no Plan B. The technical memorandum for the project (1998) which was mostly inclusive in the eventual controversial EIR (2000) quickly and pointedly dismissed the use of the existing Guerneville plant as a viable option due to limitations. What then is the logic, folly and original misrepresentation of the County now advancing the option for both Occidental and Camp Meeker to run a much longer sewer pipeline that will go directly through Monte Rio on it's way to the previously dismissed Guerneville plant???

### **SONOMA COUNTY HAS A SERIOUS GOVERNANCE PROBLEM!!!**

How this pending travesty has been proposed and allowed to advance and be financed is only one story of many. It does however bring direct light to a much bigger problem that affects all of Sonoma County. It's a prime example of governance involving excessive, conflicted and sometimes unrepresentative authority and control by the Bd. of Supervisors. The Sonoma Board of Supervisors is allowed to operate with extensive authority and control with no oversight or checks and balance.

It was recently confirmed with the Supervisors office that each elected Supervisor automatically becomes a director or commissioner of 14 separate local government agencies listed below:

Community Developmant Commission  
County of Sonoma Public Financing Corp.  
Industrial Development Authority  
Northern Sonoma County Air Polution Control District

Occidental County Sanitation District  
Rio Nido Geologic Hazard Abatement District  
Russian River County Sanitation District  
Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District  
Sonoma County Water Agency  
Sonoma County Water & Wastewater Financing Authority  
Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District  
Sonoma County Public Financing Authority  
South Park County Sanitation District  
In Home Supportive Services Public Authority

In addition, the Supervisors control the Monte Rio Wastewater Project because the PRMD is the lead agency supporting and directly accountable to the Supervisors. They directly control the Russian River Redevelopment Program because they are the Community Development Commission; the administrative and management agency for that program. They control the County planning commission through the PRMD. They appoint the Sonoma County Fair and Exposition Inc board along with all key appointments to County agencies and Commissions.

It is inconcievable to believe that citizens, taxpayers, ratepayers or any constituency to each of these individual agencies is getting proper independent representation with unbiased or non conflicted advocacy. There is a fundamental innate conffliction. The Supervisors can advance and manipulate their individual projects, expenses and funding. They continually separate, divide and conquer. All the while they provide each other political cover, oft times at the expense of a constituency they are supposed to be representing. When they press up against legalities, and they have their apparent full share, they have their County Consul at further taxpayer expense to sort out the damage. The Monte Rio Sewer project can be Exhibit A.

Mike Reilly in advocating and advancing the justifiably controversial project is clearly taking care of a few specific local commercial and real estate interests at the expense of most of the lower river constituency. A realization of who is to significantly profit (both by the project and the substantial funding subsidies) has been married to his campaign contribution lists at the Registrar of Voters going back to 1997. Certainly evidence of a quid pro quo if not a form of political prostitution.

We should not expect Reilly or the Gang of 5 to change or reduce any of this power base and control. Its certainly in their personal interest not to do so. It does need to be officially addressed by government and the citizenry somehow. If there is any doubt that this Sonoma Co. Gang of Five isn't securely

entrenched operating as a quasi oligarchy consider this startling fact confirmed by the Registrar of Voters Office:

There has not been an incumbent Sonoma County Supervisor running for office defeated since 1984. 21 years ago Robert Adams defeated by Janet Nicholas. The current Supervisors have been in office from 4 yrs (Valerie Brown) to 17 yrs (Tim Smith). None of these five gained and secured office by even having to run against an incumbent.

Sonoma County is getting unrepresentative, conflicted, bad and unnecessarily costly decisions as a result of this serious governance problem. The question now is; How and Who is ever going to officially address and fix this scandal.

John G. Bauer

